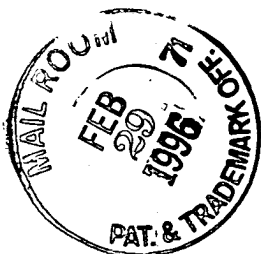


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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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5 A linear illumination device of the present
invention includes: a guide made of a light transmitting
material extending in a first direction, having a side
face and at least one end face; at least one light
emitter for allowing light to enter interior of the guide
from the at least one end face of the guide; and a light
diffusing section formed on part of the side face of the
10 guide, for diffusing the light incident thereon, wherein
at least part of the light entering the interior of the
guide goes out from part of the side face of the guide
facing the light diffusing section, thereby providing
substantially linear illumination light along the first
15 direction.